

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14755 01 OF 02 021942Z

54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

MCT-01 DHA-02 /075 W

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R 021929Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, GE

SUBJECT: KOHL-GENSCHER MEETING -- AFTER TWO YEARS

1. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER RECEIVED MICHAEL KOHL, HEAD OF THE GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION TO THE FRG, FOR AN OFFICIAL CALL ON AUGUST 27. IT WAS THEIR FIRST MEETING SINCE KOHL ARRIVED IN BONN IN 1974.

2. THE TWO YEAR DELAY WAS OCCASIONED BY THE FACT THAT, IN THE FRG, COMPETENCE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES RESTS WITH THE INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, RATHER THAN WITH THE FONOFF (ALTHOUGH RELATIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA, E.G., UN, CSCE, MAY BE DEALT WITH BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE). THIS VIEW, OF COURSE, RUNS COUNTER TO THE GDR POSITION THAT THE FRG-GDR RELATIONSHIP IS BETWEEN TWO EQUAL SOVEREIGN STATES. GENSCHER HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE KOHL UNTIL HE FIRST CAILED UPON INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER FRANKE. KOHL'S TWO-YEAR REFUSAL TO DO SO LED TO THE IMPASSE.

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PAGE 02 BONN 14755 01 OF 02 021942Z

SOME CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO A POSSIBLE KOHL-

GENSCHER MEETING IN GENSCHER'S OFFICE AT FDP HEADQUARTERS
IF KOHL CONTINUED TO HOLD OUT.

3. THE LOG JAM BROKE WHEN KOHL MET WITH FRANKE IN JUNE.
NEVERTHELESS, GENSCHER WAS STILL RELUCTANT. GENSCHER'S
PERSONAL ASSISTANT, KINKEL, HAS TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE
THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERSONALLY CALLED GENSCHER AND
URGED HIM TO SEE KOHL QUICKLY. GENSCHER DECIDED TO DO
SO, BUT TO TREAT THE MEETING AS A COURTESY CALL WITH
NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. THE MEETING FINALLY OCCURRED
ON AUGUST 27 AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, ALTHOUGH ONE SOURCE
TOLD US THAT FDP HEADQUARTERS HAD STILL BEEN UNDER
CONSIDERATION AS A POSSIBLE SITE. IF SO, WE ASSUME THAT
KOHL REFUSED AND HELD OUT FOR FULL TREATMENT AS AN
AMBASSADOR IN ALL BUT NAME, BY BEING RECEIVED AT THE
FONOFF.

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PAGE 01 BONN 14755 02 OF 02 021943Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14755

4. AT THE AUGUST 31 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE) BRIEFED ALIIED REPS ON THE MEETING. SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED INCLUDING, IN AN OBLIQUE MANNER, THE BORDER AND TRANSIT INCIDENTS. HENZE NOTED THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

-- GENSCHER INFORMED KOHL CONCERNING THE FRG RESOLUTIONS ON TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS PLANNED FOR THE UNGA.

-- GENSCHER SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN BELGRADE WOULD BE TO DRAW UP A BALANCE SHEET ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

-- GENSCHER SAID THAT THE TURNBACK OF THE STERN-FAHRT BUSSES ON AUGUST 13 BY GDR AUTHORITIES
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 14755 02 OF 02 021943Z

WAS A VIOLATION OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT.
HENZE SAID THAT AS THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, GENSCHER COULD ONLY SPEAK IN A GENERAL WAY OF THE TRANSIT PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS VICE CHANCELLOR HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE CLEAR THE POSITION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON THE INCIDENT.

HILLENBRAND

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